

general, this section is intended to authorize the granting of a modest time extension for manufacturers encountering unexpected technical or technological challenges in complying with the lead standard. The Committee expects that manufacturers will apply for waivers on a product-by-product or class-by-class basis, and that CPSC will carefully evaluate each application to ensure that any extension will have no adverse health or safety impact.

Section 102 establishes requirements for mandatory third-party testing for certain children's products. The Committee intends for these requirements to be vigorously enforced, but it does not intend the provision to be interpreted to require unnecessary duplicative testing.

Section 103 requires manufacturers to place distinguishing marks, to the extent feasible, on both children's products and their packaging that specify the location and date of production of such products. The Committee intends for this provision to aid in determining the origin of the product through the supply chain and the possible cause of the recall. The Committee believes that this will facilitate accurate identification of products subject to a recall so that consumers, retailers, and others throughout the chain may expeditiously remove the product from their homes and the stream of commerce. The Committee does not intend for the date requirement to impose an obligation for a daily date change, but may include an indication of a period of time if such label will accurately identify the product in the event of a recall.

Section 107 directs the CPSC to examine the effectiveness of the current voluntary standard that governs a wide variety of hazards that could be presented by children's toys. The Committee is disturbed by the large number of recalls this year, and expects this review to be undertaken diligently to determine the effectiveness of the applicable standards, the relevant risks of injury and the available injury data, and the need for mandatory standards and third-party testing, as appropriate. The Committee believes that small powerful magnets present a serious hazard to children and should be a high priority for CPSC action.

Section 201 authorizes increased funding levels for the CPSC to enable the agency, among other things, to attract and retain talented and experienced personnel in order to carry out its important mission effectively. The Committee urges that, to attract talented scientists in the various disciplines necessary to achieve that goal, the CPSC will encourage scientific staff to seek appropriate publishing opportunities in peer-reviewed journals and other media. To that end, the Committee expects the CPSC to adopt, within a few months after enactment of this legislation, an internal policy that encourages such publication and sets forth appropriate guidelines and timeframes for management review and consideration of staff requests for clearance to publish. The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the CPSC publication policy and practices as part of its review of the CPSC's performance of its mission.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO
HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2764, CON-
SOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2008 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs amended appropriations bill includes funding for H.R. 2642, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.

This amended bill sends a clear message to America's service men and women, their families, and our veterans that a grateful Nation deeply respects their service and sacrifice. This bill says to all who have served that just as you have kept your promises to this country, we intend to keep our promises to you.

Overall the bill totals \$63.9 billion, of which \$3.7 billion is contingent emergency funding. It provides the largest increase in VA health care funding in the 77-year history of the VA. These additional funds allow the Veterans Health Administration to hire more doctors and nurses; provide case managers for veterans with traumatic injuries; improve mental health care and PTSD services; increase access to medical services for members of the National Guard and Reserve forces in rural areas; modernize hospitals and clinics; increase the number of beds available for homeless veterans; and increase medical research. The additional funds also allow for an increase in beneficiary travel reimbursement, the first such increase since 1979.

The Veterans Health Administration, which includes Medical Services, Medical Administration, Medical Facilities, and Medical Research, is funded at \$37.2 billion, \$2.6 billion more than the President's request. These funds will mean expanded care, shorter wait times, and safer facilities for our veterans.

In addition to medical care, the bill provides funds to hire 1,800 new claims processors to reduce the serious backlog of benefits claims and reduce the time to process new claims. These were complaints the subcommittee heard repeatedly from many different sources and we took action.

On the Military Construction side, this bill also supports our active duty and Guard and Reserve service men and women and their families. The bill provides \$20.6 billion for military construction, family housing, and BRAC.

I am particularly proud of what we were able to do in this bill for families. Every year when the highest ranking non-commissioned officers testify before our subcommittee, we ask them to give us the top three quality of life issues facing military families. Child care is on every service's list and generally ranked as number one. That is why I am excited that we were able to fund 16 child care centers, 13 more than the President requested in his budget. We listened to the top non-commissioned officers, military families, and support groups, such as the National Military Family Association, and did our best to address their concerns.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Roger Wicker. His input and advice was invaluable in constructing this bill and our service men and women, their families, and our veterans are better served due to his leadership. I also want to thank the staff of the subcommittee, Carol Murphy, Tim Peterson, Walter Hearne, Donna Shahbaz, and Mary Arnold with the majority and Liz Dawson and Dena Baron with the minority. They have worked many long days and nights throughout the year putting this bill together and working with the Departments to ensure we have met our military and veterans most critical needs. Finally, I want to thank John Conger from my personal staff and Susan Sweat from Mr. Wicker's personal staff.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a bill we can all be proud to support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC, for votes during the week of December 17, 2007.

However, I would have recorded the following votes on the rollcall votes which I missed. They included:

DECEMBER 17, 2007

(1) H. Res. 856—Rollcall No. 1163—Expressing the heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007—"yes."

(2) H. Res. 851—Rollcall No. 1164—Honoring local and state first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007—"yes."

(3) Previous Question—Rollcall No. 1165—On ordering the previous question to H. Res. 873—"yes."

(4) H. Res. 873—Rollcall No. 1166—Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules—"yes."

(5) H. Con. Res. 271—Rollcall No. 1167—Providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress—"no."

(6) Previous Question—Rollcall No. 1168—On ordering the previous question to H. Res. 878—"yes."

(7) H. Res. 878—Rollcall No. 1169—Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—"yes."

(8) H.R. 4286—Rollcall No. 1170—To award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, non-violence, human rights, and democracy in Burma—"yes."

(9) 1st Senate Amendment to H.R. 2764—Rollcall No. 1171—On motion to agree to the Senate amendment with the 1st House amendment—"yes."

(10) 2nd Senate Amendment to H.R. 2764—Rollcall No. 1172—On motion to agree to the Senate amendment with the 2nd House amendment—"yes."

(11) H. Con. Res. 254—Rollcall No. 1173—Recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood—"yes."

DECEMBER 18, 2007

(1) Previous Question—Rollcall No. 1174—On ordering the previous question to H.R. 877—"yes."

(2) H. Res. 877—Rollcall No. 1175—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6) to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers, to increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, and for other purposes—"yes."

(3) H.R. 3793—Rollcall No. 1176—To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the Armed Forces who is retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated—"yes."

(4) H.R. 6—Rollcall No. 1177—To reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes—"yes."

(5) H.R. 2761—Rollcall No. 1178—To extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes—"yes."

(6) S. 2271—Rollcall No. 1179—To authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, and for other purposes—"yes."

(7) H. Res. 542—Rollcall No. 1180—Expressing the unconditional support of the House of Representatives for the members of the National Guard—"yes."

(8) H. Res. 884—Rollcall No. 1181—Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3997, with an amendment—"yes."

(9) H.R. 3690—Rollcall No. 1182—To provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes—"yes."

DECEMBER 19, 2007

(1) H.R. 3996—Rollcall No. 1183—To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes—"no."

(2) S. 2499—Rollcall No. 1184—To amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes—"yes."

(3) H.R. 4040—Rollcall No. 1185—To establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's prod-

ucts and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission—"yes."

(4) H.R. 2764—Rollcall No. 1186—Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—"no."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH SNYDER, M.D.

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge the all too short life of Dr. Joseph Snyder who lost his valiant battle against cancer Monday, December 17.

Dr. Snyder was the preeminent kidney transplant specialist in the State of Nevada. He wrote the protocols and procedures that govern the transplantation of kidneys in our Nevada hospitals. Hundreds, if not thousands, of his fellow citizens are alive today due to the dedication, expertise, and extraordinary talents of this gifted physician.

Joseph Snyder was a caring doctor, a loving husband, and a wonderful and dedicated father to his two children, Johanna, age 6 and Sebastian, age 3.

Dr. Joe and his wife MaryJhan were happily married for 7 years. Together they shared a wonderful life and made a home for their children filled with joy and love.

In addition to his family, Dr. Joe enjoyed reading and attending the theatre. His interest was history, particularly the period surrounding America's Civil War.

A senior partner in the nephrology group Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada, Dr. Snyder received his medical training at Georgetown University, graduating cum laude, and completed his fellowship at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia. He received his transplant training at the University of California at San Francisco. He was board certified in both internal medicine and nephrology.

Dr. Snyder held professional memberships in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, International Society of Nephrology, and American Society of Transplant Physicians.

He relocated to Las Vegas in 1991. In addition to his partnership with Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada, Dr. Snyder was a clinical assistant professor at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, as well as the head of the transplant program for the medical school. Dr. Snyder was a noted author of numerous publications in the field of renal disease and kidney transplantation procedures.

Dr. Joseph Snyder will be mourned and missed by his family, his colleagues, and his patients. His untimely death leaves a great void in the medical community of southern Nevada.

Most of all he will be remembered as a kind and loving family man, a dedicated physician, and a pillar of our community.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the Snyder family at this time of grief and reflection.

CONSUMER PROTECTION MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 4040, The Consumer Protection Safety Modernization Act, not just as a strong believer in consumer safety protections but also as a proud co-sponsor of this legislation. This important piece of legislation helps protect Americans from harmful and potentially deadly substances found in our consumer products.

Far too often, Americans are unknowingly confronted with tainted products putting their health and lives in danger. Last week alone, the Consumer Protection Agency had to recall 300,000 Baby Bead and Race Car Toys due to toxic levels of lead paint, 12,000 girls' hooded sweatshirts due to a strangulation hazard, and 12,000 Christmas candle sets that posed a serious fire hazard. These are only a fraction of the products recalled last week due to serious safety violations, and many of the products we Americans use are not even adequately screened.

H.R. 4040 fixes many of the failures in our product safety system by requiring that all children's products marketed to children under the age of 12 must undergo third party testing and certification, reducing the lead standard acceptable in children's toys, raising the penalty for breaking consumer product safety laws, prohibiting the sale and export of recalled products, and drastically speeding up the Consumer Product Safety Commission's ability of recalling hazardous products. In addition, not only does H.R. 4040 address the current crisis of consumer product safety, but significantly increases the financial resources of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to protect us from hazardous products in the coming years.

As we enjoy this holiday season with our loved ones, the American people should know that we as members of Congress are continuously working to ensure the safety of the products on America's shelves and wrapped presents shared during the holiday season.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, this year, the State of Oklahoma celebrates its centennial anniversary. Today, I join the rest of the Oklahoma delegation in bringing a resolution to the floor that celebrates and honors our state's rich history. Most of all, we honor the people of Oklahoma, whose hard work, decency, perseverance, and pioneer spirit have written a truly unique chapter in America's history.

Oklahoma has always been defined by the adventurous nature of the men and women who settled there.